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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/824,769	04/04/2001	Atsushi Itoh	205553US3	1441

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EXAMINER

KRISHNAN, SUMATI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/824,769

Applicant(s)

ITOH, ATSUSHI

Examiner

Sumati Krishnan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 7 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot be dependent upon another multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, claim 7 has not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 8-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Batio (US 5949643).

In regard to claims 1-4, Batio discloses a display device comprising a display portion of planar type, (see fig. 12), electronic parts for driving the external display portion through signals, (see fig. 1, element 1), and mechanical parts which are threaded, (see elements 23, 36,30). Although Batio does not explicitly disclose the use of 'thin metallic parts,' it is obvious and well known in the art to use metallic threaded parts. Most are either wood or metal, the more common being metal. Using metal promotes a stronger, more rigid and longer lasting connection. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use metal as the material of the mechanical parts. The screw inserting portion of the nut (element 23) is exposed to outer surface of the display, considering that it attaches to the threaded section 36, of

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the housing of an accessory (see fig. 1). The nut, 23 mounts the display device to an external device, 16. By mounting the display device to the accessory 16, one is inherently 'mounting the accessory to the display device.'

In regard to claims 5 and 6, Batio's accessory part is mounted both to a lateral surface of the display device as well as to a rear surface, (accessory part 16 is mounted to element 36), see fig. 1 and col. 5 lines 45-55.

In regard to claim 8, the nut, 2, is mounted to the lateral surface of the thin metallic part, 36, see figures 1 and 4.

In regard to claims 9-12, Batio does not disclose evasion processing being used, but it is well known in the art and obvious to taper or chamfer the end of a nut, (or any means of attachment), to enable appropriate fitting, make more space or produce less interference. Evasion processing is a process of manufacturing and patentable weight is only given to the product, not the process claimed. In the instant case, the product made by the process is a chamfered, 'r-processed' or 'two-level- processed' surface. It is obvious and well known in the art to process a surface to achieve a tapered or chamfered surface. For example, Uchiyama (US 6128183) tapers a pin (which is used as a connector for the disclosed display device) to enable easy engagement and a rigid attachment. Furthermore, it is a matter of design choice, whether to produce a chamfered, 'r-processed' or a 'two-level processed' surface, because, as disclosed by the applicant, each produces the same result – oscillation resistance and impact resistance.

In regard to claims 13 -18, it is a matter of design choice to utilize birefringence of liquid crystal in order to produce an image. Other alternatives include EL devices, cathode ray tubes utilizing electron guns, plasma light emissions, and minute optical reflectors known as digital

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micro-mirror devices. The result of each of these methods are the same, to enable an image to display on the screen. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to choose any one of these methods to use as the method of display.


When using an LCD as the method of display, it is well known in the art to use a backlight as the means of illumination. An LCD does not emit light, therefore a backlight is essential. In a situation like this, it is obvious and well known in the art to use a support to hold the backlight unit and the LCD panel. See US 5929957. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have employed the thin metallic member as the means of support, due to its location proximity, and strength.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sumati Krishnan whose telephone number is 703-305-7906. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 703-305-4939. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

SK
October 10, 2002


Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800